

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1           The present invention relates to a patient care  
and communication system which utilizes a central processing  
system and a plurality of remote stations electrically  
connected to the central processing system to facilitate  
5 visual and data communications. Each remote station  
includes telephone circuitry which is connected to a private  
branch exchange for telephone communications between  
stations. In addition, the private branch exchange is  
connected to a telephone exchange and a plurality of  
10 telephones for facilitating telephone communication  
therebetween. The central processing system facilitates the  
visual and data communications between the plurality of  
remote stations, and includes a system for determining which  
of the plurality of remote stations are transmitting the  
15 visual and data communications and which of the plurality of  
remote stations are to receive the visual and data  
communications. The central processing system also includes  
a system which establishes a communication link between the  
transmitting stations and the receiving stations. The  
20 remote stations include a processing system which also  
facilitates the visual, data and telephone communications  
and a display for displaying the visual communications. The  
present invention also includes a staff and/or patient  
locator system, in which each remote station includes an  
25 infrared receiver that receives infrared transmissions from  
a portable transmitter worn by a staff member or patient.  
The infrared transmissions include identity information  
associated with the person wearing the transmitter. The  
identity information is then transferred to the central  
30 processing system which determines the identity and location  
of each person wearing a portable transmitter.